

# At Swords' Points; OR, A SOLDIER OF THE RHINE.

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## CHAPTER XII (Continued.)

Three against one is always heavy odds, even when the lone individual is built in heroic mold, and Paul was not averse to calling for assistance from such a source.

So he strolled up and down, nursing a cigar and keeping close to the line of carriages.

A singular thing happened, which gave Paul cause for much speculation later on.

Glancing down the line, he saw a woman's head projected suddenly from the window of a first-class carriage.

It was so quickly withdrawn, and somehow he was under the impression that the sight of him so near at hand had been the cause of its disappearance.

More than this, Rhineland was almost ready to take his oath that he had seen something familiar about the head.

In fact, he had good cause to believe the party was no other than the Countess Almée.

When he walked slowly past the compartment he found the shade drawn down and all dark within, so that he could discover no confirmation of his suspicion.

At any rate, it gave him food for thought.

He really needed something of the sort to take his mind away from his troubles, which at times threatened to overwhelm him.

All aboard again, and they were off. Paul saw no reason to regret his little saunter, since, besides giving him an opportunity to enjoy a good cigar in the open air, it had also settled his convictions regarding his fellow travelers, and at the same time opened his eyes to the possible presence of the Countess.

Several times, from the adjoining compartment, had come the sound of a gruff laugh, and there was something very familiar about its genial nature, though Paul could not manage to just place it.

He wondered whether these men meant him ill or if he had drawn largely upon his imagination in thinking so. They appeared to have settled down and were all locked in Morpheus' arms—somehow the air seemed to grow heavier, and Paul's resistance of less avail, until finally, half way between midnight and dawn, he crossed the borderland of sleep.

## CHAPTER XIII.

In Durance Ville.

Perhaps half an hour had elapsed, when the stout Teuton merchant raised his head and with eager eyes surveyed the corner where Paul was sprawled out asleep.

Convinced that everything was propitious, he gave the foot of the younger tourist a sudden kick that brought the scholar erect at once.

The merchant pointed and grinned, whereupon the other arose and approached Paul, who still slept on, utterly unconscious of impending woe.

They seized upon the American. Paul struggled desperately—alas! he was taken at such disadvantage that he found himself almost powerless against these men.

One had a knee upon his chest and was choking him, while the other gathered his hands together and proceeded to tie them in a most ignominious fashion.

When this had been accomplished they suffered Paul to rise, which he did with alacrity, at the same time demanding to know what such an indignity meant, and threatening them with all manner of punishment when their destination was reached.

But all that had no effect, so Paul lay back in his corner and thought. Again that laugh in the adjoining compartment.

Like a flash it came to him where he had heard that cheery sound before. It was the English surgeon who had stood at his back in the student duel, and whose words of genuine sympathy and good luck he could distinctly remember. What would not the big Briton do to the pretended keepers once he was let loose among them?

Then Paul considered that the Englishman might fall him—might prove a myth, after all, so he set about to free himself from his bonds.

It was hard work, but at last—how he breathed a sigh of relief when the stretched bonds fell off his wrists. Free again, thank heaven! and ere he would allow those ignominious cords to be again wrapped about his arms he would die.

Now, to lay hold of the weapon. Steady! one of the fellows was eyeing him in a suspicious manner, and it would not do to let the game be discovered at this stage.

As the man rose from his seat and drew back the traveling rug, the American struck him with all his force, at the same time springing to his feet. He reached now for the firearm.

The situation took a sudden turn, however, from the plan of campaign which he had laid out, for just at this interesting moment there came several shrill pipings from the motor ahead, then a crash, and a tremendous upheaval that betokened a serious accident on the road; and, of course, Paul found no immediate use for his little persuader.

A smash-up on the railway is seri-

ous enough at any time, but it seems to possess an added horror when one is so situated that the freedom of limbs is denied.

Rhineland felt the carriage violently upheave, then toss to the right and left as if in the grasp of a hurricane.

All manner of horrible sounds burst upon his ears, very nearly deafening him.

Then came a tremendous crash, followed by a shock.

When he crawled out from the wreck he found quite enough to engage his attention in rescuing those less fortunate than himself from the wreck.

One good turn this accident did Paul—he was free from the unwelcome attentions of the men who had watched him so closely, and who had been taking drastic measures to get him into their power, at the time the smash occurred.

Just then Paul heard a voice from close by, a voice that calmly begged assistance, a voice that showed no trace of fear or alarm.

He knew it belonged to the Englishman, and with all speed he made for the spot, eager to render Sir Noel what help he could.

No doubt the other was surprised to hear an English voice address him, but under the conditions he did not ask any explanation until his limbs had been extricated from their predicament.

"Any serious damage, Sir Noel?" asked Paul, seeing the other make a cursory examination.

"Thank heaven, I have come out better even than I might have expected. A beastly piece of business, isn't it? But you seem to know me—we have met somewhere. I am glad to shake your hand and thank you for the help you gave."

As he did so, he leaned forward, endeavoring to see Paul's face.

"I am Paul Rhineland—we met under peculiar conditions at Heidelberg," Paul said, quietly.

The big Briton squeezed his hand some more.

"By Jove! You cut out some brave work for us—thirteen stitches, my boy, it took to cover that fellow's cheek. A rare mark he'll carry for life. Glad to meet you again, doubly glad to be under obligations. But I may be the only doctor at hand. See you later, my boy."

He hurried off to where a fire was burning, and in which quarter they were carrying the injured as fast as rescued from the wreck.

Just then a shriek from feminine lungs somewhere in the distance reminded Paul of what he had seen.

Was the Countess Almée on the train, as he had some reason to believe? He hurried to the carriage where he remembered having seen her, but when he looked the nest was empty.

A man with a lantern rendered him some assistance, since by the aid of the light he discovered certain articles in the snug nest so recently occupied by a lady as served to prove her identity.

Then his suspicions were not overdrawn, and she had been the genius whose hand manipulated the strings by which he had been trapped.

The accident had, unfortunately, taken place at a lonely part of the road and this assistance could hardly come before dawn.

Curiosity caused Paul to draw closer to the fire and survey the groups near by.

He was searching for the countess, and though the women were hardly in a condition to appear presentable, still Paul believed he could have recognized the adventuress in any guise.

To his surprise he failed to discover her! Then he turned to make inquiries of Sir Noel, and in this way discovered the truth; but before he reached the doctor, the female assistant, who was flitting about like an angel of mercy, binding up wounds and carrying water to parched lips, came between his eyes, and the blazing fire, and Paul was stunned to discover in this tender-hearted sister of charity the woman he had looked upon as a cold-blooded adventuress, Countess Almée.

The sight of the countess in the role of charity gave Paul a queer sensation—he had seen her rope in the dupes in Paris, men with titles and fortunes falling into her net galore, but this was a new feature which he had never dreamed could exist in her nature.

It only went to show that she was a woman after all, with a tender heart beneath the exterior—perhaps, had fortune been more kindly in surrounding her with luxury she might have been a blessing rather than a curse to mankind.

At any rate Paul found himself condoning her faults and feeling more charitably disposed toward her.

She had seen and recognized him, and instantly came to his side.

"The doctor told me you were unhurt," she said, and he knew then that his safety had been upon her mind while she worked.

"I regret to tell you that one of your friends has vanished and the other has a broken leg—possibly you have found him yonder," he remarked.

She did not blush at all, but simply laughed.

"Yes, I have attended to him. He groans horribly and has not the nerve

of a child. No doubt you condemn me for using such heroic measures to accomplish my purpose, but I am a believer in the adage that the end justifies the means. You know that which may ruin me should it come out, and I am surely at liberty to defend myself. Besides—I had other reasons for my actions."

Paul knew what she meant, and his old feeling of repulsion came back. Such determination appalled him—was it possible to escape from the clutches of this wonderful woman once she set her mind upon his capture?

A less stubborn man might have yielded to what he was pleased to call the inevitable, but Paul was saved from this fate by the memory of a face.

Though Hildegarde might be lost to him forever, he could not forget the charm of that modest blush which signaled the condition of her heart toward him.

By that memory he was ready to steer his craft, whether dire disaster or the favoring winds of fortune overtook him.

"My visit to Berlin," he said, "is one of pure defense, but in clearing the innocent it will be necessary to place the blame just where it belongs. You understand what that means. Germany is no place for you, Countess, and if you are as wise as I take you to be you will pass over the border without much delay."

She looked at him strangely. "I am unable to quite fathom the motive that influences you to warn me. I had imagined that you hated me," she said, slowly.

"Not that, Countess; not that. I only regretted that I was unable to return the unfortunate regard you expressed for me. A man can not force his heart to act—that is, beyond his control."

"Then, in spite of my work, you say you have not despised me, Paul?" with a vein of eagerness in her voice. "I am afraid I was beginning to when suffering the indignities you agents chose to heap upon me; but as I saw you ministering to these poor suffering wretches all that passed away. I would not have harm come to you, Countess."

"Then turn back to Heidelberg."

"I have too much at stake to do that. Come what will I shall go to Berlin."

"There is war in sight."

"I know it, and perhaps I may be given an opportunity to see some action. In my present frame of mind nothing would suit me better."

She looked troubled. "Surely you would not take up arms against my beloved France?"

"You forget that German blood flowed in the veins of my forefathers. And, in truth, I am utterly indifferent as to the cause that takes me to the field, since it is only the excitement of battle that I desire."

"You grieve me very much, Monsieur. I would see you fighting for the lilies of France with the keenest of pleasure. Perhaps a commission—"

"Do not mention it. Remember, Countess, I have given you ample warning of my intentions once I reach the capital. If you are wise you will vanish immediately. At any rate, I shall not hold myself in blame should something unpleasant happen to show you the interior of a gloomy German fortress."

"Have no fear. I am well able to look out for myself. Perhaps I have influential friends closer to the throne than you may suspect."

She was called away at this juncture by Sir Noel, who had need of her valuable assistance in binding up a wounded arm.

A remarkable woman! Yes, Paul was compelled to acknowledge that he had never met nor heard of her equal. He hoped he would never see the Countess again; but fate willed otherwise, as future events would prove.

His next concern was to reach Berlin.

(To be continued.)

## MEMBERS OF SACRED COLLEGE.

Italians Have Majority in Selecting New Pope.

The sacred college enters on the new year so nearly complete as to mark a new record. The plenum is seventy, and there are now sixty-six red hats, with heads under them, it is one may so express it, which leaves little or no margin, as it is a tradition to leave the number of the princes of the church incomplete. At the beginning of 1900 there were only fifty-six; during the year two have died and twelve have been created. During the twenty-four years of Leo XIII.'s pontificate no fewer than 137 cardinals have died. Recently the sacred college was so reduced as to have only fifty-one members, and was re-enforced by only one consistory by the creation of twelve cardinals, who substantially modified that institution, and who will have a notable influence on the election of a new pope, says the Pall Mall Gazette.

The proportion of foreign and Italian princes of the church, which until recent years had been kept about equal is now, however, much altered, the Italians being in the majority. In fact the sacred college is at present composed of forty Italians and twenty-six of other nations; of these seven are French, six Austro-Hungarian, one Portuguese, one Belgian, one American, one English, one Irish, etc. Given that the sixty-six cardinals all enter the conclave, the Italians would be once be in the majority in favor of their own countrymen, a majority of one only being necessary to make the election valid. But agreement is necessary, and this is the saving clause in favor of the minority, which can make their weight felt through the disagreements of the others.

## ASKS ANNEXATION

FILIPINOS PETITION FOR PERMANENT UNION WITH AMERICA.

## SEND A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS

Says Natives Desire a Definite Civil Form of Government—All Provinces Except Two Said Now to Be Peaceful.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The memorial of the federal party of the Philippine islands was transmitted to the senate yesterday by the secretary of war, together with a letter of transmittal by Governor Taft, in whose charge the document was given.

The memorial was adopted at an extraordinary session of the federal party held in Manila in November. It sets forth that the performance of that obligation of the treaty of Paris which gave the United States congress authority to fix the statutes of the Philippine islands, has been deferred to this time because of the attack by the Filipinos upon the sovereignty of the United States, an act brought about, the memorial says, through a misunderstanding and not through hatred of the American sovereignty.

It further states that out of the sixty provinces and districts war exists in only two—Batangas and Samar. It also asserts that it is a demonstrated fact that the pueblos, or towns, anxiously desire a "definitive civil rule," and says that those who are still in arms allege the lack of a civil regime, "agreed upon and promulgated by the congress of the United States as a weighty pretext for their belligerent attitude, which regime shall determine at once the political status and civil rights of the inhabitants of the archipelago in accordance with the treaty of Paris."

The memorial then makes a presentation of the deduction of the federal party that congress should proceed to carry into effect its intention of defining the future of the Philippines in their relations to the United States and asserts that there is no reason for not replacing the military regime "by a civil rule of a popular character in conformity with the decisive words of the never-to-be-forgotten President McKinley."

The memorial proper is divided into two parts. The first of these is a petition for annexation and a presentation of the form of government desired. In this subdivision the federal party sets forth that it has made an exhaustive study of both the Philippines and the Americans and concludes that from the mass of data collected it is "the intention of the two peoples that they should never be reunited." The memorial then proceeds:

To make the Philippines a colony of the United States or to grant independence to the Philippines would be to hand the islands over to disorder and to anarchy, to destruction and to chaos. In effect the colonial system involves the principles of difference of citizenship, in equality of rights and other consequent abuses and injustices, all of which we Filipinos were surfeited under the Spanish government, and for this reason we reject everything which tends toward a colony. Philippine independence, with or without a protectorate, means a holding of power by all the tribal elements of the seas which predominate, and would predominate still for years, until the anger of Filipinos toward Filipinos shall have become completely calmed, education become general and the fanaticism we have inherited from Spain extirpated. Federation or annexation would settle all these difficulties by concentrating the interest of the Filipino people upon education and labor.

## HOPE FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT.

British Papers Think We Sympathize with Alliance.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The liberal afternoon newspapers view the alliance between Great Britain and Japan with mixed feelings and conservative organs generally applaud it. The St. James Gazette (conservative) expresses "modified surprise at this wide departure from British traditional policy," but finds solace in the thought that the policy and interests of the United States are identical with those of Great Britain and Japan, and concludes: "Perhaps we shall find, when the policy of Great Britain is definitely known, that the United States is formally or informally a party to the league of peace in the far east. At any rate, no effort should be spared to secure its adhesion."

## DESTROYS MANY BUILDINGS.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 13.—An early morning fire at Haverhill, Pa., on the West Penn railroad, destroyed \$75,000 worth of property and for a time threatened the entire place. The fire started in the plant of the Duquesne Distributing company and before it was under control consumed the main structure, a four-story brick building, the First Methodist Episcopal church, postoffice and Thompson's general store, a large frame building.

## QUESTION CHECKS' LEGALITY.

Officials Believe Those Certified Without Knowledge Illegal.

DETROIT, Feb. 13.—The most vital question to the depositors of the wrecked City Savings bank is whether the checks which Cashier H. R. Andrews certified for F. C. Andrews when he has no funds in the bank, amounting to \$662,000, and which the latter deposited among four other local banks and a trust company, are legal.

If they are held to be illegal because of Cashier Andrews having certified to them without the knowledge of the directors, it is thought that the assets of the City Savings bank, with what has been turned over to it by F. C. Andrews, will be sufficient to pay depositors in full.

On the contrary, if they are held to be legal, it will take just that amount from the depositors. President F. C. Pingree said today that he believed the checks would be decided illegal and that the depositors would receive at least 75 per cent on the dollar. In the statement prepared yesterday of the bank's condition these certified checks were ignored.

## KING HOLDS HIS FIRST LEEVEE.

Array of Diplomats, Nobility and Military.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—King Edward's first levee since his accession was held in St. James' palace at noon today, and was an exceptionally brilliant function. The prince of Wales, the duke of Connaught and other members of the royal family were present, and the gathering of members of the diplomatic corps, cabinet ministers and naval and military officers was unprecedentedly large. The king, who wore a field marshal's uniform, drove from Marlborough house to the garden entrance of the palace, escorted by Life guards. On his arrival there his majesty was received by the high officers of the household and was conducted by the lord chamberlain and the lord steward to the royal retiring room, where he was subsequently joined by the other members of the royal family. A procession was then formed and proceeded to the throne room, where the members of the royal family took up positions on the left of his majesty, in order of precedence.

## EMPEROR IS GRIEVED.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—A dispatch announcing the gravity of the condition of the son of President Roosevelt was communicated to Prince Henry this afternoon by the correspondent of the Associated Press and was communicated by the prince to the emperor. Deep sympathy was manifested at the Schloss for President Roosevelt. The foreign office expects to receive a report from Dr. Von Holleben, the German ambassador at Washington, of the condition of the president's son. The last dispatches from Groton were received too late for publication in the evening papers, but these journals comment regretfully on the early news.

## PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 12.—J. W. Gilliam, proprietor of the Empire hotel, which was burned last Sunday morning, was this afternoon held responsible for the death of the eleven persons who lost their lives as the result of the fire. The jury says his responsibility lay in his neglect to furnish fire escapes and life lines, as provided for by the statute and ordinances. Police Sergeant Hall, who was present when the fire was raging, testified that not a life would have been lost had there been fire escapes on the building.

## SHEEP OWNER MURDERED.

DENVER, Colo., Feb. 12.—A special to the News from La Jara, Colo., says that Perello Gallegos, a prominent and wealthy sheep owner, was murdered on Cat Creek, fifteen miles west of La Jara, while taking supplies to his sheep camp.

## DEATH OF GENERAL EGBERT BROWN.

WEST PLAINS, Mo., Feb. 12.—General Egbert Brown, who was in command of the union troops at the Brazos, Texas, in the last battle of the civil war, died here today, aged 85 years.

## MISS DAISY DOANE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Miss Daisy Doane of Omaha expects to soon embark for the Philippines, to join her brother, Lieutenant W. G. Doane of the regular army.

## JAPANESE WORKMEN THREATENED.

PUEBLO, Colo., Feb. 12.—Forcible means to prevent Japanese miners from working are threatened by several hundred Italian and American miners in the Fremont county coal district, who held a meeting and will hold another soon. The arrival of thirty-two Japanese was a complete surprise to the men at the Chandler mine. The foreigners were taken to Chandler in box cars and several armed guards are protecting them.

## THE LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Latest Quotations from South Omaha and Kansas City.

**CATTLE**—Cattle receipts continued heavy, which makes the supply for four days this week considerably heavier than for the same days of last week, as will be seen from the table of receipts given above. There were not so very many beef steers on sale, the bulk of the receipts consisting of butcher stock. Buyers were out fairly early and made the rounds, bidding just about steady prices. In some cases sellers thought bids were a little stronger on the better grades. As a result the cattle began moving toward the scales in good season and the bulk of the offerings was soon disposed of. The better grades of cows and heifers were in good demand, but the market could not be quoted any more than steady. Packers seemed to want what was on sale, but they did not want to pay any more than they have for the last several days. There have been a good many of the medium grades and canners on sale all the week, so that packers are not particularly anxious for supplies of that kind. Bulls were in good demand where the quality was satisfactory, but the common kinds were neglected. The same was true of veal calves and stags. There were quite a few stockers and feeders on sale, but the demand was sufficient to take what was offered at steady prices, where the cattle showed weight and quality. In some places cattle answering to that description sold a little stronger.

**HOGS**—The heavy receipts of hogs continued. Packers, of course, tried to pound the market, and they succeeded to quite an extent. The best heavyweights hogs in most cases were not over a lower, but all others were fully a dime lower and very slow sale at the decline. In fact, packers would not look at anything but the better weight hogs on the opening market, and as a result the market was very slow. The better weights sold largely from \$6.10 to \$6.25, and as high as \$6.30 was paid for prime hogs. The medium weights sold mostly from \$5.90 to \$6.10, and the lighter loads went from \$5.90 down.

**SHEEP**—There were about as many sheep and lambs on sale as arrived yesterday, and the demand continued active, and as a result the offerings changed hands about as fast as they came in. The prices paid were not materially changed, and the market could best be described by calling it active and steady on all desirable grades. The quality of the offerings today was fairly good on the average, so that sellers had no trouble in disposing of what they had on hand. There were not enough feeders on sale to test the market, but as there was a liberal inquiry for good stuff it is safe to call the market fully steady.

## KANSAS CITY.

Cattle—Best grades, strong to 10 higher; common, steady; choice, export and dressed beef steers, \$5.50@6.05; fair to good, \$4.50@5.05; stockers and feeders, \$3.50@5.00; western fed steers, \$4.75@5.75; Texas and Indian steers, \$4.00@5.30; Texas cows, \$2.75@4.50; native cows, \$3.00@4.50; heifers, \$3.75@5.25; canners, \$2.00@2.90; bulls, \$3.00@4.50; calves, \$4.50@6.75.

HOGS—Market opened steady to slow; best, closed strong; top, \$6.50; bulk of sales, \$5.75@6.00; heavy, \$5.50@5.75; mixed packers, \$5.00@5.60; light, \$5.30@5.10; pigs, \$4.75@5.25.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS**—Market active, shade higher; native lambs, \$6.00@6.25; western lambs, \$5.00@6.25; native wethers, \$4.00@5.10; western wethers, \$4.50@5.00; yearlings, \$5.25@5.50; ewes, \$3.50@4.00; culls and feeders, \$2.00@4.50.

## LIBERTY TORCH TO DIE OUT.

Congress Fails to Make Appropriation for the Light.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Liberty's torch is to be put out. The lofty light in the hand of the bronze goddess, standing on Bedloe's island, in the upper New York bay, that has been allowed to grow steadily dimmer since Bartholdi gave the magnificent statue to the United States, is to be permanently extinguished. Sentiment, it is said, which has kept the beacon burning all these years, can no longer keep it alight and now the government will snuff it for all time.

News of the contemplated extinguishment of the torch has been received in the form of a notice to mariners, sent out by the lighthouse board of the treasury department at Washington. It states that on March 1, 1902, the light will be discontinued.

Installed on the island to furnish current for the torch there is a powerful electric plant, but it is unused. A few lamps of smaller power furnish barely enough illumination so that the beacon can be made out by passing mariners. Lack of a congressional appropriation is said to be the cause for discontinuing the light.

## SEVEN MEN KILLED.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 15.—Seven men were killed and at least fourteen were seriously injured by a huge boulder weighing fifteen tons crashing into the caboose of a work train on the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf railroad, twenty miles west of Little Rock, at 1 o'clock this morning.

## NEBRASKA FRUIT WINS MEDAL.

CRETE, Neb., Feb. 15.—E. F. Stephens of this place has received a bronze medal for the exhibit of Nebraska apples at the Paris exposition. On one side is the inscription, "Eposilion. Universelle. Interventionelle. 1900. E. F. Stephens." On the other side, "Republique. Francaise."

## SHIFTS BLAME ON AMBASSADOR.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The Associated Press understands that the under secretary for foreign affairs, Lord Cranborne, will inform the house of commons that Lord Pauncefoot, the British ambassador at Washington, acted merely as dean of the diplomatic corps in summoning the meeting of April 14, 1898; that he did so at the instigation of other diplomatists and that he acted in those proceedings entirely on his own initiative.